

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are presently pending.

The Examiner's indication that claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-14, 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. Claims 1 and 10 are presently canceled without prejudice. Claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1, claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10, claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10 and claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,656,555. Claims 1-18 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18-35 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/395,360. Claims 1-18 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18-35 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/817,543.

Filed concurrently herewith is a terminal disclaimer to address these double patenting rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-135.

Respectfully submitted,

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